

Message Text

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45

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
----- 061316

P R 291702Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0786

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12779

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS: CINC EUR VAIHINGEN, USNMR SHAPE,
DIA WASHDC, CINC USAF RAMSTEIN, CSAF WASHDC. MILITARY
ADDEES TREAT AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE.

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PO, GW

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE G-91'S GROUNDED

REF: LISBON 5078 DTG 281614Z JUL 76

1. THE GERMANS CONSIDER THE STORY ABOUT THE "GROUNDED"
PORTUGUESE G-91'S (REFTEL) AS NOTHING MORE THAN A
BLACKMAIL ATTEMPT BY THE PORTUGUESE TO EXTRACT MONEY TO
PAY FOR THE AIRCRAFT OVERHAULS REQUIRED. THIS WAS THE
REACTION WE RECEIVED WHEN WE RAISED THE MATTER IN A LOW-
KEY MANNER WITH A SENIOR DEFENSE MINISTRY OFFICIAL.

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2. THE OFFICIAL REPORTED THAT ALL OF THE AIRCRAFT

DELIVERED HAVE MORE THAN A THOUSAND HOURS OF FLYING TIME LEFT ON THEM. THIS EQUATES TO AN OPERATIONAL LIFE OF ABOUT SIX YEARS. WHEN THE AIRCRAFT WERE DELIVERED, THE GERMANS ALSO PROVIDED THE NECESSARY SPARE PARTS FOR OVERHAUL. THE OFFICIAL STATED THAT THIS WAS SPECIFIED IN A WRITTEN CONTRACT WITH THE PORTUGUESE WHO ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAKING THE NECESSARY REPAIRS. THE GERMANS DO NOT BELIEVE THE PORTUGUESE LACK THE TECHNICAL CAPABILITY FOR OVERHAULING G-91'S SINCE THE PAF HAS HAD SUCH AIRCRAFT IN ITS INVENTORY.

3. AS FAR AS BONN IS CONCERNED, THE GERMANS INTEND TO ADOPT A "WAIT AND SEE ATTITUDE" SINCE THE PORTUGUESE COMPLAINT ABOUT THE G-91'S HAS NOT OFFICIALLY BEEN BROUGHT TO FRG ATTENTION. THE GERMANS BELIEVE THEY ARE IN A RELATIVELY STRONG POSITION ON THE BASIS OF THE WRITTEN CONTRACT IN WHICH THE PORTUGUESE ACCEPTED FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE REPAIR WORK.
HILLENBRAND

NOTE NY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, POLICIES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, AIR SCHEDULES, AIRCRAFT MAINTENANCE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BONN12779
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760293-0638
From: BONN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760711/aaaaaiuv.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 LISBON 5078
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <13 AUG 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PORTUGUESE G-91'S GROUNDED
TAGS: MILI, PO, GE
To: STATE LISBON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006